

Murphy Lake Ranger Station  
Fortine, Montana  
January 13, 1971

Dear Respondent,

As promised last spring, we are sending you results of the questionnaire on the Ten Lakes Scenic Area. We received 92 completed forms ranging in user types from grade school students to service men abroad. 47 respondents indicated they preferred horses as a mode of travel; 45 preferred hitching. Major differences in opinion between horse users and hikers occurred in questions dealing with horse impact on the resource, use of helicopters, information to be placed on signs, and costs of "back-country" administration. Minor differences occurred in questions dealing with personal improvement of campsites, restrictions of number of users, and some others referred to on the attached form.

Comments added to many questionnaires were most informative. They vary as to user preference, degree or solitude desired, and personal interpretation of man's impact on this resource. The comments are too numerous to list here. However, you are invited to inspect them if you desire, by visiting the ranger station at any time.

What is to be done with the questionnaires now? We plan to incorporate user preference, as much as possible, where consistent with resource protection, in an updated version of our management plan. Work on the management plan is now underway and hopefully, will be ready for review within a month or two.

A questionnaire is also a tool for determining carrying capacity. Carrying capacity may be based on two functions: physical capacity of the land and aesthetic capacity of the users. Answers and comments gave us some insight into aesthetic capacity. Physical capacity will require more study. To put the two functions in terms of numbers would not be realistic at this time.

How will the need for "improvements" be determined? Improvements, as mentioned in questions #27, 29, 30, 35, 36, and 37, if at all provided, will not be for the convenience of the user. Any "improvement" will be for ecological protection by attempting to channel use. As an example, wilderness-style toilets at Wolverine Lake and at Bluebird Lake were constructed last summer. These facilities were placed for easy movement when necessary. Hitching racks, constructed two seasons ago, were moved. Managers showed very little use and were not moved. Additional improvements are not planned in the near future.

Important questions, as a result of the questionnaire, deserve more thought. They are as follows:

79-12

PART II - Back Country

1. Performance for "back country" made of gravel.

52 Horsesback       48 Hiking

2. One should camp wherever he pleases in "back country" areas.

Hiking	12	Agree	10	Neutral	11	Disagree	57
Horses	13						

3. Moderate improvement of a campsite is acceptable (e.g. removing brush & limbs, putting nails in trees for utensils, simple box cupboards, etc.)

Hiking	30	Agree	10	Neutral	3	Disagree	52
Horses	49						

4. In remote "back country" recreational areas no one should tell a person what he should or should not do.

Hiking	2	Agree	7	Neutral	11	Disagree	80
Horses	10		10				

5. If a person sees a shorter route than the trail marker used he may take it rather than stay on the trail.

Hiking	38	Agree	27	Neutral	10	Disagree	60
Horses	17		13				

6. One should not wash his dishes, his clothes or himself directly in the streams or lakes.

Hiking	68	Agree	15	Neutral	15	Disagree	18
Horses	61						

7. All evidence of use of an area should be removed when leaving a campsite.

Hiking	100	Agree	28	Neutral	NS	Disagree	NS
Horses	96		2				

8. Trash left by previous "back country" users should be removed by other users.

Hiking	77	Agree	73	Neutral	7	Disagree	20
Horses	68		6				

9. If you see a person in a "back country" area doing something he shouldn't do, you should say something to him about it.

Hiking	83	Agree	30	Neutral	9	Disagree	1
Horses	87		10				

10. Bullets should not be brought into the "back country".

Hiking	27	Agree	57	Neutral	32	Disagree	18
Horses	31		10				

20. Metal signs are acceptable for use in "back country" areas.

13 No ans.	Hiking 20 Horses 25	Agree 23 Neutral 23	23 23	54 51	Disagree 53
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21 Signs in "back country" should be of wood.

14 No ans.	Hiking 48 Horses 47	Agree 47 Neutral 30	41 30	7 23	Disagree 15
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22. Signs in "back country" areas may be on rock slabs when consistent with surroundings.

Hiking 59 Horses 64	Agree 62	Neutral 23	23 23	18 13	Disagree 15
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23. Signs in remote "back country" should be directional only, giving distances to key points.

Hiking 57 Horses 53	Agree 55	Neutral 18	14 21	30 26	Disagree 27
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24. Signs in "back country" areas should be descriptive giving interpretation of features of the area.

6% No ans.	Hiking 25 Horses 43	Agree 34	Neutral 24	23 26	Disagree 36
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25. "Back country" signs should be placed at trail junctions only.

4% No ans.	Hiking 41 Horses 36	Agree 38	Neutral 24	23 26	Disagree 34
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26. A comprehensive hand-out pamphlet with detailed map and a few strategically placed signs would best serve the "back country" user.

4% No ans.	Hiking 75 Horses 62	Agree 58	Neutral 14	11 17	Disagree 14
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27. Couthouses are consistent with proper management of "back country" recreation areas.

2% No ans.	Hiking 66 Horses 68	Agree 67	Neutral 16	16 17	Disagree 15
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28. No toilet facilities whatever are consistent with proper "back country" use.

2% No ans.	Hiking 23 Horses 19	Agree 21	Neutral 14	11 17	Disagree 63
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29. Tables of natural material are consistent with proper management of remote "back country" areas.

2% No ans.	Hiking 41 Horses 55	Agree 49	Neutral 14	16 13	Disagree 36
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40. Costs of recreational "back country" administration should be defrayed by some form of moderate charge.

Hiking <u>45</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>39</u>
Horses <u>13</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>60</u>
Agree <u>29</u>	Neutral <u>22</u>	Disagree <u>49</u>

41. Man-caused fires in remote "back country" recreation areas, and outbreaks of non-native insects and disease, should be extinguished as quickly as possible after they are detected, by any suitable method.

1% No ans.	Hiking <u>70</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>18</u>
	Horses <u>79</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>
	Agree <u>75</u>	Neutral <u>11</u>	Disagree <u>13</u>

42. Natural events in normal history of a plant-and-animal community should not be artificially controlled in remote "back country" areas; specifically lightning fire, tree encroachment of alpine meadows, natural erosion, should be allowed to run their course.

1% No ans.	Hiking <u>39</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>34</u>
	Horses <u>30</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>47</u>
	Agree <u>34</u>	Neutral <u>22</u>	Disagree <u>41</u>

43. Sections of remote "back country" recreation areas denuded by fire, insects, disease or heavy use, subject to rapid erosion, should be protected by artificial restoration of an adequate cover of vegetation.

Hiking <u>66</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>20</u>
Horses <u>79</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>
Agree <u>73</u>	Neutral <u>9</u>	Disagree <u>18</u>

44. Even well-managed second growth timber must be assumed to have a lower recreation value than a virgin forest.

7% No ans.	Hikers <u>36</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>36</u>
	Horses <u>55</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>
	Agree <u>46</u>	Neutral <u>19</u>	Disagree <u>28</u>

45. The land manager should make use of strategically placed, non-permanent facilities such as movable fire rings, tables, outhouses to protect resources in fragile "back country" areas.

Hikers <u>73</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>
Horses <u>79</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>
Agree <u>76</u>	Neutral <u>10</u>	Disagree <u>14</u>

Major disagreements between horse users & hikers were:

#15	\$32
#24	\$40
#31	

Minor differences appear in:

#3	\$39
#19	\$42
#35	\$44